



PATENT
Atty. Dkt. MRKS/0039.C1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Pietras

Serial No.: 10/621,971

Confirmation No.: 2036

Filed: July 17, 2003

For: Apparatus and Method for
Facilitating the Connection of
Tubulars Using a Top Drive

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

~~~~~

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Tsay, F.

Customer No.: 36735

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
**37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date 30 July 2004

Kyla D. Cummings  
Signature

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Applicant, and the Attorney who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventor and the information in his file, submit herewith patents, publications, or other information of which they are aware, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56.

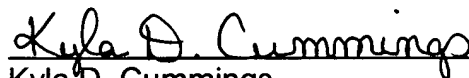
While the information submitted in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement may be material pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to therein is prior art for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other possibly material information as defined under 37 CFR § 1.56(a) exists.

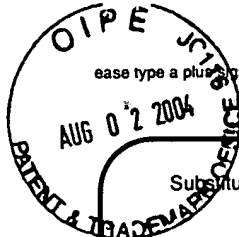
The patents and/or publications submitted herewith are set forth on the attached Form PTO-1449.

If the sum of \$180.00 is due under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) pursuant to § 1.97, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge this fee, and any other fee necessary to make this submission timely, to the Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0039.C1/WBP.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kyla D. Cummings", is written over a horizontal line.

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Attorney for Applicant



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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
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Sheet 1 of 27

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Application Number     | 10/621,971    |
| Filing Date            | July 17, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor   | Pietras       |
| Group Art Unit         | 3672          |
| Examiner Name          | Tsay, F.      |
| Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1  |
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### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                    |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |
|                    | A1                    | US-6742606 B2                            | 06/01/2004                     | Melcalfe, et al.                                   |                                                                                 |
|                    | A2                    | US-6702040 B1                            | 03/09/2004                     | Sensenig                                           |                                                                                 |
|                    | A3                    | US-6668937                               | 12/30/2003                     | Murray                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A4                    | US6634430                                | 10/21/2003                     | Dawson et al.                                      |                                                                                 |
|                    | A5                    | US-6547017 B1                            | 04/15/2003                     | Vail, III                                          |                                                                                 |
|                    | A6                    | US-6543552 B1                            | 04/08/2003                     | Melcalfe, et al.                                   |                                                                                 |
|                    | A7                    | US-6536993 B2                            | 03/25/2003                     | Strong, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |
|                    | A8                    | US-6457532 B1                            | 10/01/2002                     | Simpson                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A9                    | US-6263987 B1                            | 07/24/2001                     | Vail, III                                          |                                                                                 |
|                    | A10                   | US-6216533 B1                            | 04/17/2001                     | Woloson, et al.                                    |                                                                                 |
|                    | A11                   | US-6189616 B1                            | 02/20/2001                     | Gano, et al.                                       |                                                                                 |
|                    | A12                   | US-6186233 B1                            | 02/13/2001                     | Brunet                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A13                   | US-6155360                               | 12/05/2000                     | McLeod                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A14                   | US-6135208                               | 10/24/2000                     | Gano, et al.                                       |                                                                                 |
|                    | A15                   | US-6098717                               | 08/08/2000                     | Bailey et al.                                      |                                                                                 |
|                    | A16                   | US-6070671                               | 06/06/2000                     | Cumming et al.                                     |                                                                                 |
|                    | A17                   | US-6035953                               | 03/14/2000                     | Rear                                               |                                                                                 |
|                    | A18                   | US-6024169                               | 02/15/2000                     | Haugen                                             |                                                                                 |

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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|                    |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B1                    | DE 3 213 464                                                                      | 10/13/1983                     | Reimer                                             |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B2                    | DE 4 133 802                                                                      | 10/22/1992                     | Andrejewski                                        |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B3                    | EP 0 235 105                                                                      | 09/02/1987                     | Kjell-Oue                                          |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B4                    | EP 0 265 344                                                                      | 04/27/1988                     | Legendre                                           |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B5                    | EP 0 462 618                                                                      | 12/27/1991                     | Karlsson                                           |                                                                                 |                |

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|                    | A19                   | US-5887668                               | 03/30/1999                     | Haugen et al.                                      |                                                                                 |
|                    | A20                   | US-5887655                               | 03/30/1999                     | Haugen, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |
|                    | A21                   | US-5836409                               | 11/17/1998                     | Vail, III                                          |                                                                                 |
|                    | A22                   | US-5826651                               | 10/27/1998                     | Lee, et al.                                        |                                                                                 |
|                    | A23                   | US-5803666                               | 09/08/1998                     | Keller                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A24                   | US-5787978                               | 08/04/1998                     | Carter, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |
|                    | A25                   | US-5785132                               | 07/28/1998                     | Richardson, et al.                                 |                                                                                 |
|                    | A26                   | US-5717334                               | 02/10/1998                     | Vail, III, et al.                                  |                                                                                 |
|                    | A27                   | US-5706905                               | 01/13/1998                     | Barr                                               |                                                                                 |
|                    | A28                   | US-5615747                               | 04/01/1997                     | Vail, III                                          |                                                                                 |
|                    | A29                   | US-5575344                               | 11/19/1996                     | Wireman                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A30                   | US-5560440                               | 10/01/1996                     | Tibbitts                                           |                                                                                 |
|                    | A31                   | US-5553679                               | 09/10/1996                     | Thorp                                              |                                                                                 |
|                    | A32                   | US-5546317                               | 10/10/1995                     | Hood, III, et al.                                  |                                                                                 |
|                    | A33                   | US-5526880                               | 06/18/1996                     | Jordan, Jr., et al.                                |                                                                                 |
|                    | A34                   | US-5520255                               | 05/28/1996                     | Barr et al.                                        |                                                                                 |
|                    | A35                   | US-5477925                               | 12/26/1995                     | Trahan, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |
|                    | A36                   | US-5458209                               | 10/17/1995                     | Hayes, et al.                                      |                                                                                 |
|                    | A37                   | US-5435400                               | 07/25/1995                     | Smith                                              |                                                                                 |
|                    | A38                   | US-5402856                               | 04/04/1995                     | Warren, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |

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|                    | B6                    | EP 0 554 568                                                                      | 08/11/1993                     | Tibbitts, et al.                                   |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B7                    | EP 0 961 007                                                                      | 12/06/1999                     | Gano, et al.                                       |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B8                    | EP 1 006 260                                                                      | 06/07/2000                     | Fincher, et al.                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B9                    | GB 2 335 217                                                                      | 09/15/1999                     | Desai                                              |                                                                                 |                |

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|                    | A39                   | US-5361859                               | 11/08/1994                     | Tibbitts                                           |                                                                                 |
|                    | A40                   | US-5322127                               | 06/21/1991                     | McNair et al.                                      |                                                                                 |
|                    | A41                   | US-5318122                               | 06/07/1994                     | Murray, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |
|                    | A42                   | US5181571                                | 01/27/1993                     | Mueller                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A43                   | US-5109924                               | 05/05/1992                     | Jurgens, et al.                                    |                                                                                 |
|                    | A44                   | US-5052483                               | 10/01/1991                     | Hudson                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A45                   | US-4904119                               | 02/27/1990                     | Legendre, et al.                                   |                                                                                 |
|                    | A46                   | US-4848469                               | 07/18/1989                     | Baugh et al.                                       |                                                                                 |
|                    | A47                   | US-4836299                               | 06/06/1989                     | Bodine                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A48                   | US-4825947                               | 05/02/1989                     | Mikolajczyk                                        |                                                                                 |
|                    | A49                   | US-4699224                               | 10/13/1987                     | Burton                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A50                   | US-4681158                               | 07/21/1987                     | Pennison                                           |                                                                                 |
|                    | A51                   | US-4620600                               | 11/04/1986                     | Persson                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A52                   | US-4604818                               | 08/12/1996                     | Inoue                                              |                                                                                 |
|                    | A53                   | US4595058                                | 06/17/1986                     | Nations                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A54                   | US-4515045                               | 05/07/1985                     | Gnatchenko, et al.                                 |                                                                                 |
|                    | A55                   | US-4489793                               | 12/25/1984                     | Boren                                              |                                                                                 |
|                    | A56                   | US-4483399                               | 11/20/1984                     | Colgate                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A57                   | US-4466498                               | 08/21/1984                     | Bardwell                                           |                                                                                 |

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|                    | B10                   | GB 1 469 661                                                                      | 04/06/1977                     | Swobda, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B11                   | GB 1 277 461                                                                      | 06/03/1972                     |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B12                   | GB 1 448 304                                                                      | 09/02/1976                     |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B13                   | GB 1 582 392                                                                      | 01/07/1981                     |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |

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|                    | A58                   | US-4446745                               | 05/08/1994                     | Stone, et al.                                      |                                                                                 |
|                    | A59                   | US-4396076                               | 08/02/1983                     | Inoue                                              |                                                                                 |
|                    | A60                   | US-4396077                               | 09/12/1981                     | Radtke                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A61                   | US-4274778                               | 06/23/1981                     | Putnam, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |
|                    | A62                   | US-4221269                               | 09/09/1980                     | Hudson                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A63                   | US-4189185                               | 02/19/1980                     | Kammerer, Jr., et al.                              |                                                                                 |
|                    | A64                   | US-4186628                               | 02/05/1990                     | Bonnice                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A65                   | US-4100981                               | 07/18/1978                     | Chaffin                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A66                   | US-4083405                               | 04/11/1978                     | Shirley                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A67                   | US-3934660                               | 01/27/1976                     | Nelson                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A68                   | US-3901331                               | 08/26/1975                     | Djurovic                                           |                                                                                 |
|                    | A69                   | US-3785193                               | 01/15/1974                     | Kinley et al.                                      |                                                                                 |
|                    | A70                   | US-3700048                               | 10/24/1972                     | Desmoulins                                         |                                                                                 |
|                    | A71                   | US-3691624                               | 09/19/1972                     | Kinley                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A72                   | US-3669190                               | 06/13/1972                     | Sizer et al.                                       |                                                                                 |
|                    | A73                   | US-3624760                               | 11/30/1971                     | Bodine                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A74                   | US-3575245                               | 04/20/1971                     | Cordary, et al.                                    |                                                                                 |
|                    | A75                   | US-3489220                               | 01/13/1970                     | Kinley                                             |                                                                                 |
|                    | A76                   | US3387893                                | 06/11/1968                     | Hoever                                             |                                                                                 |

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|                    | B14                   | GB 2 053 088                                                                      | 02/04/1981                     | Gebhart                                            |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B15                   | GB 2 201 912                                                                      | 09/14/1988                     | Dinsdale                                           |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B16                   | GB 2 313 860                                                                      | 02/10/1997                     | Lee                                                |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B17                   | GB 2 320 270                                                                      | 06/17/1998                     | Armell, et al.                                     |                                                                                 |                |
|                    | B18                   | GB 2 333 542                                                                      | 07/28/1999                     | Kirk                                               |                                                                                 |                |

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# **SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 5

of

27

Application Number

10/621,971

Filing Date

July 17, 2003

First Named Inventor

Pietras

Group Art Unit

3672

Examiner Name

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|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                    |                       | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |
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|                    | A78                   | US-3191680                               | 06/29/1965                     | Vincent                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A79                   | US-3191677                               | 06/29/1965                     | Kinley                                             |                                                                                 |
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|                    | A81                   | US-3102599                               | 09/03/1963                     | Hillburn                                           |                                                                                 |
|                    | A82                   | US-3087546                               | 04/30/1963                     | Wooley                                             |                                                                                 |
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|                    | A85                   | US-2764329                               | 09/25/1956                     | Hampton                                            |                                                                                 |
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|                    | A89                   | US-2627891                               | 02/10/1953                     | Clark                                              |                                                                                 |
|                    | A90                   | US-2499630                               | 03/07/1950                     | Clark                                              |                                                                                 |
|                    | A91                   | US-2324679                               | 07/20/1943                     | Cox                                                |                                                                                 |
|                    | A92                   | US2295803                                | 09/15/1940                     | O'Leary                                            |                                                                                 |
|                    | A93                   | US-2216895                               | 10/08/1940                     | Stokes                                             |                                                                                 |
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|                    | A100                  | US-1301285                               | 04/22/1919                     | Leonard                                            |                                                                                 |
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|                    | B36                   | USSR 581238                                                                       | 02/23/1976                     | Barshai, et al.                                    |                                                                                 |                |
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|                    | B42                   | USSR 781312                                                                       | 03/07/1978                     | Barshai, et al.                                    |                                                                                 |                |
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|                       | B72                      | WO 00/08293                                                                       | 02/17/2000                     | Van Drentham-Susman                                |                                                                                 |                |
|                       | B73                      | WO 91/16520                                                                       | 10/31/1991                     | Hallundbaek                                        |                                                                                 |                |
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|                       | B75                      |                                                                                   |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       | B76                      |                                                                                   |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       | B77                      |                                                                                   |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|                       | B78                      |                                                                                   |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |

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|                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |    | Filing Date            | July 17, 2003 |
|                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |    | First Named Inventor   | Pietras       |
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|                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |    | Examiner Name          | Tsay, F.      |
|                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |    | Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0039.C1  |
| Sheet                                                                                                                                                          | 10 | of | 27 | Submission Date        | July 30, 2004 |

**NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | T <sup>2</sup> |
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|                    | C21                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                |
|                    | C22                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                |
|                    | C23                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                |
|                    | C24                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                |

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2



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|                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |    | Examiner Name          |  | Tsay, F.      |  |
|                                                                                                                                                                |    |    |    | Attorney Docket Number |  | MRKS/0039.C1  |  |
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|                          | B77 | WO 01/81708        | 11-01-2001 | WIPO    | E21B  | 10/32    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B78 | WO 01/79650        | 10-25-2001 | WIPO    | E21B  | 10/60    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B79 | WO 01/46550        | 06-28-2001 | WIPO    | E21B  | 7/20     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B80 | WO 01/12946        | 02-22-2001 | WIPO    | E21B  | 19/00    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B81 | WO 00/50730        | 08-31-2000 | WIPO    | E21B  | 10/66    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B82 | WO 00/28188        | 05-18-2000 | WIPO    | E21B  | 7/06     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B83 | WO 00/37771        | 06-29-2000 | WIPO    | E21B  | 43/10    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B84 | WO 00/11311        | 03-02-2000 | WIPO    | E21B  | 19/16    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B85 | WO 00/11310        | 03-02-2000 | WIPO    | E21B  | 19/16    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B86 | WO 00/11309        | 03-02-2000 | WIPO    | E21B  | 19/16    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B87 | WO 00/05483        | 02-03-2000 | WIPO    | E21B  | 19/16    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B88 | WO 98/55730        | 12-10-1998 | WIPO    | E21B  | 23/00    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B89 | WO 97/08418        | 03-06-1997 | WIPO    | E21B  | 4/18     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B90 | GB 2 357 101       | 06-13-2001 | UK      | E21B  | 7/06     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B91 | EP 1 050 661       | 11-08-2000 | EP      | E21B  | 7/18     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B92 | EP 0 571 045       | 08-19-1998 | EP      | E21B  | 7/06     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B93 | GB 2 216 926       | 10-18-1989 | UK      | E21B  | 7/20     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B94 | SU 1618870         | 01-07-1991 | Russia  | E21B  | 33/14    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                          | B95 | WO 96/28635        | 09-19-1996 | WIPO    | E21B  | 17/14    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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|                   | C29 | Sinor, et al., Rotary Liner Drilling For Depleted Reservoirs," IADC/SPE Paper 39399, IADC/SPE Drilling Conference, March 3-6, 1998, pp 1-13                             |
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|                   | C47 | Forest, et al., "Subsea Equipment For Deep Water Drilling Using Dual Gradient Mud System," SPE/IADC Drilling Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, February 27, 2001-March 01, 2001, 8 pages |
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